

Powell's prescription

CAN Andy Powell, of Wishbone Ash, recommend a good guitar tutor? — Brian Hancill, Birtley, Co. Durham.

■ Not really, because I've never bothered with books, although I did once look at Bert Weedon's Play In A Day, many moons ago! I'm self-taught chiefly by listening to different guitarists. I've got a large record collection of every kind of music featuring guitar, including jazz, blues, folk and rock. — ANDY POWELL.

As a newcomer to drums I'd like to know the sound colours and playing characteristics of various cymbals, but do not know where to get such information. — Sidney Browne, Brixton.

■ Paiste publish a leaflet giving these details, covering heavy, medium ride, medium, thin, thin crash, paper thin, hi-hat and sizzle symbols, with useful advice on each, including a testing routine. It is available from Dallas Arbiter Ltd, 10-18 Clifton Street, London EC2.

Budgie beat

What instruments do Budgie play, when will their next album be released and when will they be appearing at Stoke — Ian Porter, Stoke-on-Trent.

■ TONY Bourge (lead); Gibson 345 stereo guitar, Vox 100-watt Supreme amplifier, Vox multi-link stack, Solar and Cry Baby wah-wah pedals. Burke Shelley (bass). Fender Precision bass guitar, Marshall 200-watt amplifier, four 18 inch Vox custom-built 100-watt cabinets. Ray Phillips (drums). Ludwig kit comprising two 22 inch bass drums, one 13 inch and one 14 inch tom-tom, one 16 x 15 inch side tom-tom, Ludwig Speed King bass pedals, Paiste 602

CCS revealed

Please ask Alexis Korner what CCS means. — J. Collins, Dulwich.

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ANY QUESTIONS?

■ Officially it means Collective Consciousness Society, a joke of mine which was taken quite seriously. It is what the band intends to be but it's rather a heavy way of putting it. The point is that the initials sound good. — ALEXIS KORNER.

Bassey Gold

How many gold discs have been awarded to Shirley Bassey? Where was she born and how old is she? Has she recorded "Tonight" from "West Side Story"? — William Tennant, Newcastle.

■ He left Alan because he wanted to give up touring. He is now concentrating on songwriting and has written several numbers with Alan for the group.

Organ building

Which book should I get for instructions on making an electronic organ? — Thursby Denrocke, Hampton Wick.

■ An Electronic Organ for the Home Constructor, by Alan Douglas, published by Pitman at £1.25.

Self-made discos

I'm hoping to start my own mobile disco. What equipment and licence shall I need and can I obtain records free or at a reduced price? — H. Jackman (Coventry), P. E. Nunn (Bletchley) and R. Hurrell (King's Lynn).



ANDY POWELL: listen to other guitarists

■ The cheapest and most efficient way to start a mobile discotheque is to buy the individual items needed and build them yourself into cabinets of your own specifications. You should buy the components at a shop specialising in stereo equipment and endeavour to get a professional discount. The basic requirements are (1) two standard record decks (2)

a mixer specially made for a mobile disco and possessing four input channels, one for each turntable, one for the mike and one for a tape-recorder, an extra mike or any other accessory (3) a unidirectional microphone (4) a 50-watt amplifier with two cabinets each containing two 12 inch speakers. Flashing lights on the console will improve your performance.

case, a truss rod adjustment may be necessary. The action could be too low, thus not allowing enough clearance between the strings and frets. Most probably it is due to the 4th fret lifting slightly, in which case, a light tap would bring it back into line. If the frets are really bad they could be redressed by rubbing lightly with a fine oilstone along the complete length of the fingerboard. The bass strings would obviously be more prominent as they tend to vibrate more. As one can get very involved with neck adjustment, it might be better to take the guitar along to a professional repairer, who would analyse the trouble immediately and correct it. — Guitar maker and repairer CHRIS ECCLESALL, 17c Station Parade, Ealing Common, London W5.

Amping an organ

I need suitable amplification for an Imperial Duo organ. The range of work is from solo engagements in small clubs to band bookings in town halls. — W. Randall, St Albans.

■ The problems with amplifying organs of this type is finding a unit which will safely take the deep pedal board frequencies without distortion, but at the same time project the right amount of brilliance from the solo manual 4', 2' and 1' voices. The unit we would recommend as completely fulfilling these requirements comprises the 100-watt Marshall bass amplifier and Marshall Reflector cabinets with 18inch speaker, price £248 complete. If you are using pedals extensively these can be fed into one channel of the amp and the main keyboards into the other channel. On the Marshall bass amp, channel one has more "attack" and high sensitivity than channel two. Experiment — you may find channel two better suits the keyboard and channel one the pedals. Suggested tone control settings would be Bass No. 7, Presence, Middle, Treble about 3. — IAN MILNE, Sales Office, Rose Morris and Co Ltd, 32-34 Gordon House Road, London NW5.

Buzz bother

When I play the 5th and 6th strings at the 3rd fret on my acoustic guitar there is a loud buzzing from the strings. The other strings are not affected to such a degree but the buzzing also occurs on the 1st and 2nd frets to some extent. I don't think the neck is warping, although some wood has been shaved off the back of the neck to make it thinner. It also has a metal rod through the neck for reinforcement. — Robert Frid, Welwyn Garden City.

■ There are many permutations that could cause this trouble. The neck could be bowed in the centre, in which